



<http://www.mn-arts.org/>

Don't forget to sign up on the reflector!!

From the President

Another month has passed and things have slowed down. We had a great turnout at the April club meeting even though it was a holiday weekend. I believe that is an indication of the excitement there is for the club. I've received a few emails from new members (I guess we're all technically new, aren't we) and it appears there's definitely an interest in what we want to become as a club. Many of us started out in ham radio because of our love of electronics and radio theory. Operating to some is just a way to confirm that your latest workbench project worked. Be sure to tell your friends and make announcements at your other clubs about us. The MN-ARTS will only be as successful as our combined efforts.

Everyone at the April meeting enjoyed Kirk's, N0KK, presentation on JT65. Although I haven't tried JT65 yet, I did finally try PSK31 and I had my first QSO with a ham in NJ. The interface I used was the Signalink USB from Tigertronics with the DigiPan software. It was very easy to set up and now I can say I'm a digital ham too.

And you will not want to miss our next meeting on May 5th. Craig, AA0ZZ, will be giving us a preview of his presentation for *Four Days in May* in Dayton later in the month. There is more information in the newsletter so be sure to check it out. Two of the first kits I built were Craig's EZ-keyer and the PIC-EL board 2 years ago. The PIC-EL board is very educational and I encourage you to check it out – it did a great job reminding me how much “fun” assembler language can be! But it also showed me that some of my earlier education in computer programming was also applicable to radio beyond just logging.

Finally, I would like to invite each of you to submit something for our newsletter. I am not planning to write something every time as my radio life isn't that interesting. However if you are willing we would love to hear about either your ham journey, something you've done recently, or what you are doing on your workbench. So feel free to submit your stories to Steve, NW0C, at ulrichs@comcast.com, or to me, Chuck, KA8HDE, at ka8hde79@yahoo.com.

This is one of the forums we want to use to share our ideas and adventures. There are now over 35 members so if we each occasionally contributed one article you may not have to do it again for another 2-3 years! And if I don't hear from someone, don't be surprised if I get a hold of you – and please don't say no either as we all have something to share. And if we get enough volunteers, maybe we can have 2 per month – one called “My Ham Journey” and the other “On my Workbench”. I can dream!

Also, if you haven't checked out the new website at www.mn-arts.org yet, please do so and sign up for our reflector – another way to share timely information.

See you at the meeting on May 5th.

73 de chuck ka8hde

May Technical Presentation will be given by Craig Johnson – AA0ZZ

Craig will give us the presentation he will be doing at Dayton this year. He will be speaking to us on the subject of PIC microcontrollers. Here is a little something from Craig about his presentation:

*“Contrary to the commonly quoted definition of insanity, we experimenters often ***must*** do the same thing over and over and the results are often ***not*** the same because there are usually additional factors affecting the experiment that we didn't know about.*

Actually, it would be insanity if we just tested something once and expected it to always work that way! I will

encourage everyone to find something that interests them and then to dig in and experiment with it.

I will focus on PIC microcontrollers and show that the basics are easy for anyone to understand. Microcontrollers are good building blocks for experimentation and project ideas are easy to come up with. We will discuss some of the basics of the devices that hams like to use. Then we will discuss a few of my more advanced PIC microcontroller-based projects. One, in particular, my PIC-EL board, is a very useful tool for experimenters to use to dig into the inner workings of PIC microcontrollers.”

Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2012

Introductions were made around the table. 23 in attendance.

March 2012 meeting minutes approved.

Paul Bushouse gave us an accounts report. All bills paid and there is money in the bank.

Chuck Stroud updated us on the club incorporation as follows:

- Jay Bellows did all the legal work at no charge.
- Insurance has been purchased through the ARRL recommended provider, the Hayes Group.
- Skip Jackson provided the membership application. Skip suggested that the club become ARRL affiliated. We will start on that process.

Chuck requested that all members fill out an application if they haven't already so we have complete records moving forward.

The club will provide a charter membership certificate to those that join by the June meeting.

The club activity at the Buffalo ham fest was reviewed along with the banner that was made at Insti-Print.

A motion was made to have anyone who joins after September 1 to receive the balance of the year and the following year covered. The motion was approved.

There was a discussion regarding reciprocal membership with the Minnetonka club. Jim Nedbalek provided a proposed draft. The board will meet to get something put together for the next meeting. It was agreed that this was a good thing for both clubs.

Everyone was encouraged to visit the new club web site and sign up on the reflector.

Field Day is June 23. We will be making an application for a club call sign.

The group was asked to make suggestions for possible presentations and also for volunteers to make presentations.

Craig Johnson will make the May technical presentation.

Business meeting adjourned.

Show & Tell

Larry Gaalaas – KB0R discussed the repair of a Hustler antenna. *Kurt Nordwall – KD0LKC* explained how he braised the unit with silver solder and how he ground an area of the chrome plating off.



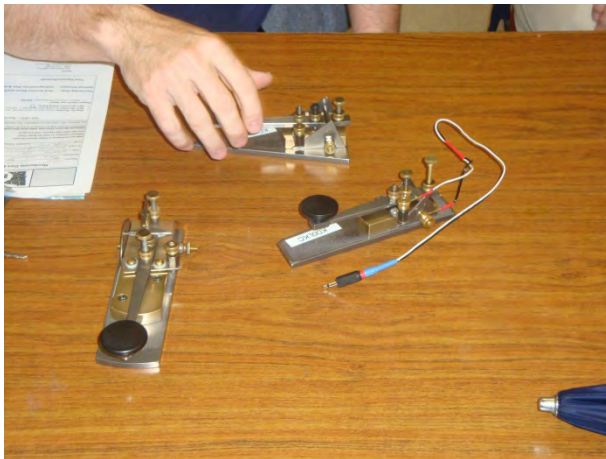
Dave Kent – W0AU related how he recently worked the Cayman Islands with 100 mw. He then showed us his new tennis ball launcher which he got as a kit from AntennaLaunchers.com. Later he gave us a demonstration in the parking lot.



Kurt Nordwall – KD0LKC brought in three homemade keys which are smaller than the ones he has made in the past. He says they work well for daily use. Kurt described how he built them and how he got the springs from E-Bay. He also brought in an MFJ code reader.



Steve Ulrich – NW0C brought in a new development board he recently obtained from MicroElectronica. It supports most all of the MicroChip 8 bit PIC processors. The board has pin outs available for all ports and also incorporates USB & Ethernet.



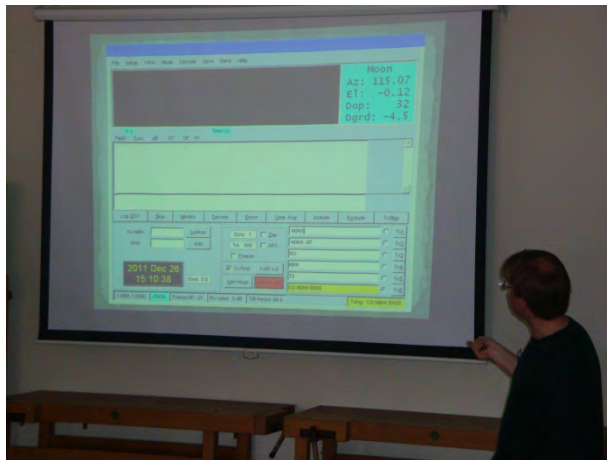
Phil Schweitzer – K0CD brought in a QSL he received from Portugal. He worked the station on 160 with 5 watts! Phil also described the balloon set up he uses for his 160 meter antenna which hooks to a Z match tuner. He uses $\frac{1}{2}$ wavelength of wire.



John Krawczak – KJ0P told us about a heat shrink kit available from the Axeman for \$20. He mentioned that it has a good assortment and is a good price for what you get.

Feature Presentation

Kirk Pengelly – *NOKK* gave us an excellent presentation on JT65HF and WSJT. He explained in detail how to get onto these modes and that most all of us already have the necessary equipment. The group had many questions which Kirk answered for us. This was a really interesting presentation!! Thanks Kirk!



Club Officers:

President: Chuck Stroud/KA8HDE
Vice Pres: Larry Gaalaas/KB0R
Secretary: Steve Ulrich/NW0C
Treasurer: Paul Bushouse/N0TYE
At Large: Jay Taylor

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